

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 JUSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 SEC-03 L-03

SCA-01 PPT-02 RSR-01 /064 W

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R 291630Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4425

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, PINT CS

SUBJECT: SEC REQUEST FOR SERVICE ON LE BLANC

1. I ASK THAT WE NOT BE INSTRUCTED TO
ATTEMPT TO SERVE PAPERS ON LEBLANC FOR
FOLLOWING REASONS.

A) OUR EXPERIENCE ON THE STRICKLER
SERVICE MAKES IT CERTAIN THAT SERVICE ON
LEBLANC WILL AROUSE A PUBLICITY STORM
ADVERSE TO US INTERESTS HERE. COMING ON
THE HEELS OF THE VESCO EXTRADITION CASE,
IT WILL LEND WEIGHT TO THOSE CHARGING OR
BELIEVING THAT WE ARE "HARASSING" VEXCO
AND COMPANY. SINCE OUR EXTRADITION CASE
HAS NOT PROSPERED, ATTEMPTS TO SERVE
LEBLANC WILL ALMOST SURELY BE SEEN AS A
REACTIVE WAY OF "GETTING AT" VESCO
BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN
EXTRADITING HIM. WE HAVE BEGUN TO
RECOUP SOMEWHAT, PUBLIC RELATIONS-WISE,
WITH OUR APPEAL OF JUNE 27 WHICH IS A
LONG, REASONED BRIEF. WE STAND CON-
SIDERABLY BETTER TODAY IN THE EYES OF
THE PUBLIC THAN WE DID YESTERDAY. TO
RISK THIS GAIN WITH WHAT WILL APPEAR TO
THE COSTA RICANS, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY,
AS A "PERSECUTING" ACT WOULD BE VERY
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UNFORTUNATE. IT WILL ALSO FURTHER STRAIN

OUR PERSONAL RELATIONS AND POSITION WITH
GOCR AUTHORITIES AND THUS HAVE AN EFFECT
ON TOTAL RELATIONS.

B) WE ARE NOT SURE THAT LEBLANC IS
STILL HERE. HIS JET IS NO LONGER AT
AIRPORT. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS
TO OFFICIAL RECORDS TO ASCERTAIN THAT FACT,
WE DO KNOW THAT SMALL PLANE OF THE VESCO
GROUP LEFT SAN JOSE LAST WEEK-END. IT
IS POSSIBLE HE WAS ON IT.

C) IN ANY CASE, EVEN WHEN HE IS HERE
HE REMAINS WELL-HIDDEN, AND VERY DIFFICULT
TO LOCATE. NO SERVICE CAN BE EFFECTED
WITHOUT THE KIND OF DETECTIVE WORK AND
PERHAPS EVEN SUBTERFUGE THAT IS COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE FOR THIS EMBASSY (OR A LAWYER
ACTING ON THE USG'S BEHALF) TO UNDERTAKE.

IT WOULD ALSO PREJUDICE OUR RELATIONS WITH
THE COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES, BOTH JUDICIAL
AND EXECUTIVE, FOR THE SAME REASON.

D) IT WILL UNQUESTIONABLY BE DIFFICULT
TO FIND A RELIABLE LAWYER WILLING TO UNDER-
TAKE THIS TASK FOR US, ESPECIALLY AFTER
THE STRICKLER EXPERIENCE.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT LEBLANC COMES
AND GOES AND SELDOM STAYS HERE FOR LONG,
I SUGGEST HE BE SERVED ELSEWHERE, PERHAPS
THE BAHAMAS.
VAKY

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